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[From THE MEDICAL NEWS, April 16, 1887]

COMPLIMENTS OF
DR. L. McLANE TIFFANY.

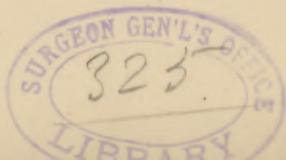
A CASE OF NEPHROLITHOTOMY DURING THE FIFTH MONTH OF PREGNANCY.

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ON February 16, 1887, I saw, with Drs. E. P. Irons and G. W. Miltenberger, Mrs. M., aged twenty-seven years. Her history showed that for several years she had suffered, at irregular intervals, with pain in the left loin, about the region of the kidney; occasionally the pain would shoot downward to the groin. She had been often under medical treatment. On two occasions when she applied to Dr. Irons, during the past few years, pus existed in the urine, but in small quantity; blood was never noticed in the urine.

Seven months ago the patient under consideration married, and two or three months later became pregnant. Two months ago, being three months pregnant, she slipped on the ice and fell forcibly in the sitting posture; great pain in the left side and loin was now complained of, and Dr. Irons was called to attend her; he found it necessary to give large doses of opium. Mrs. M. was no longer able to lie on the left side in bed, and found some relief when bending forward and to the left. A fortnight after the fall Mrs. M. attended a ball, wearing her wed-



ding dress, which was extremely tight, thanks to pregnancy; during the whole evening she experienced much pain in the loin. Since the fall, a period of about seven weeks, pain in the region of the left kidney has been constant; hyperæsthesia has been marked, not only over the same region, but also over the left half of the abdomen; vomiting frequent, appetite capricious; urine ill-smelling, and contained much pus; temperature elevated, pulse increased in frequency; rest either night or day was only to be obtained by opiates.

Dr. Miltenberger now met Dr. Irons in consultation, and a day or two later I was added to the council. The diagnosis made prior to my seeing the patient was "pyelitis, probably from renal calculus." In this opinion I concurred, and operated at my first visit for the removal of the stone. Ether was employed as the anæsthetic, and the operation conducted under antisepsis. Under anæsthesia no tumor or hardening was made out in the loin. At my request, Dr. L. E. Neale examined the generative organs by touch, finding the pregnancy normal.

The usual incision below the last rib and parallel to it was made, the kidney exposed and examined; to sight and touch it was normal, moving freely with respiration. The fat and fascia around the kidney seemed healthy. I then exposed the kidney as far upward as possible and found an elastic spot just under the rib. I here entered a knife, dividing the kidney tissue and evacuated ill-smelling pus. This abscess was in the kidney substance, and my finger discovered no communication with the pelvis. I then explored the inside of the abscess carefully with a probe, which in a moment passed somewhat deeply and touched a stone. Along the probe was passed a director, in the groove of which

I slid a pair of slender forceps, opened them widely tearing kidney substance and at once passed my finger into the pelvis, where it rested in contact with a stone.

The calculus was easily extracted. I passed a black woven bougie nearly its whole length down the ureter and greatly regretted that I had not an instrument long enough to be passed into the bladder, in order to test the possibility of such a manœuvre.

The wound was thoroughly irrigated with bichloride solution, 1 : 4000, a large drainage-tube inserted into the pelvis of the kidney, and an iodoform gauze dressing applied. Vomiting occurred but twice or three times after the operation; pain and hyperæsthesia ceased; convalescence was rapid, the thermometer marking 99° the evening of the third day after operation.

The drainage-tube was removed on the sixth day; four days later no urine passed from the wound in the back.

Three days after the removal of the drainage-tube the patient complained of pain along the course of the ureter, the temperature and pulse rose, there was hyperæsthesia over the left half of the abdomen, and vomiting; four days later the symptoms ameliorated and the patient's condition became normal. The discomfort, etc., was attributed to the passage of urine along the ureter after the removal of the tube from the kidney, carrying, of course, the "cleanings" of the upper part of the ureter.

A slight fever followed the removal of the drainage-tube from the kidney in the patient upon whom I did nephrolithotomy in 1885 (*THE MEDICAL NEWS*, May 23, 1885), but I did not deem the small elevation of temperature worthy of attention. With Mrs. M. the fever was accompanied by frequency of

micturition and slight bladder tenesmus, as though there might be irritation where the ureter passes through the coats of the bladder. Inasmuch as pus was present in the urine, and no urine came through the loin, there was, of course, no obstruction in the passage from the kidney to the bladder; while the drainage-tube remained in the wound, there was little or no pus in the urine, showing a comparatively healthy right kidney.

At present the wound in the loin is healed, the urine contains pus in diminishing quantity, and the pregnancy progresses physiologically. The stone is calcium oxalate and weighs thirty grains; it is shaped somewhat like a cocked hat.

I have entitled this case one of nephrolithotomy, according to Morris's definition, for there was no tumor in the loin even when searched for under anæsthesia. The abscess found was strictly within the kidney tissue, the kidney not being enlarged so as to be recognized as a tumor. The abscess, I believe, was formed in a Malpighian pyramid, the outlet of which was closed by the stone lodged in a calyx; my probe passed through the corresponding papilla, and grated against the obstruction at once.

This is, I think, the first reported case of nephrolithotomy being done upon a pregnant female. Gilmore's case was a nephrectomy. It is interesting to note that in no wise did the operation or the pregnancy interfere at all one with the other. The movements of the child were not noticed as more violent than natural, at the time of operation or subsequently, and there was nothing denoting disturbance of the reproductive system.